

# Bullies who hide can still inflict pain

## EDITORIAL

By **SEAN WORKMAN** and  
**ANNIKA BELL**

CYBERBULLYING is a form of bullying that is associated with the internet. Cyberbullying may occur due to perceived differences between gender, race, culture, and belief. Perpetrators often believe they will not be discovered and become bolder due to the relative certainty of no face-to-face confrontation.

There are no set criteria or stereotypes as to what constitutes a cyberbully. Cyberbullies post rude and inappropriate comments, photos or videos on the internet with the intention to intimidate.

Current studies indicate that approximately 43 per cent of primary-aged children worldwide have experienced some form of bullying over the internet; though only one in four cases have been reported to an adult, school personnel or law enforcement. The statistics also indicate that girls are twice as likely to be victimised than boys.

The number of children with access to digital devices of their own and the demand to be connected to social networking sites has allowed potential victims to become easier targets.

Cyberbullying does not just affect the person being tormented. About 75 per cent of children have seen the "bashing" of another child, while 40 per cent of children admit that this has happened more than once. Witnessing an episode of intentional emotional pain to another human being and failing to report also makes the observer part of the cycle.

Governments continue to struggle with this complicated and complex problem. A majority of states have laws that explicitly include electronic forms of communication within stalking or harassment laws, while most law-enforcement agencies have cyber-crime units and often internet stalking is treated with more seriousness than reports of physical stalking.

The NSW Department of Education and Training has clear guidelines and policies in place to eliminate bullying in all schools. It rejects all forms of bullying and states clearly that no student should experience bullying within the learning environments of the department.

Clearly cyberbullying is – and will remain – a problem that needs to be addressed at all levels of society.

Schools and parents must act in a co-operative and consultative manner in order to provide all children with strategies to deal with this negative aspect of our technological society.



Cartoon: Seth Latimer



**INSPIRING:** Dr Cameron Stelzer leads a writing workshop at Wirreanda Public School.  
Picture: Matthew Campbell

# How Stroogle came to town

By **MATTHEW CAMPBELL** and  
**ZACH KEATS**

**DURING** term three, author, illustrator and qualified teacher, Dr Cameron Stelzer, made a number of visits to Wirreanda Public School.

Dr Stelzer is the creator of *The Stroogle*, a rhyming book series which gained a silver medal in the 2012 PICA awards.

Dr Stelzer's inspirations have come from his decade of travelling around the world and day-to-day events with friends and family.

Currently, the picture-book series includes six adventures that create endless possibilities. The main character, Stroogle, is a creative combination of several weird and wonder-

ful animal features, including chicken feet and tail, cat ears, tropical bird feathers and a child's face. The name itself is a reference to the author's favourite German dessert, the apple strudel.

The enthusiastic author came to Wirreanda to motivate children of all literary abilities to write, draw, and engage in reading.

Kindergarten students read the series with Dr Stelzer, while years 1-6 were inspired to open their minds and were provided with strategies to assist them in planning and composing narratives.

In addition to the school's weekly enrichment programs, Dr Stelzer held three workshops for gifted writers to extend their knowledge.

# Book Week takes kids across the universe

By **ISABELLA BISCAN** and  
**AVA RAVELL**

**EACH** year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books, Australian authors and illustrators around a common theme. Book Week is the longest-running children's festival and celebrates its 68th birthday in 2013, with the theme "Read Across the Universe".

This year, Wirreanda Public School librarian Rachel Crossing organised many events that students,

families and the community participated in.

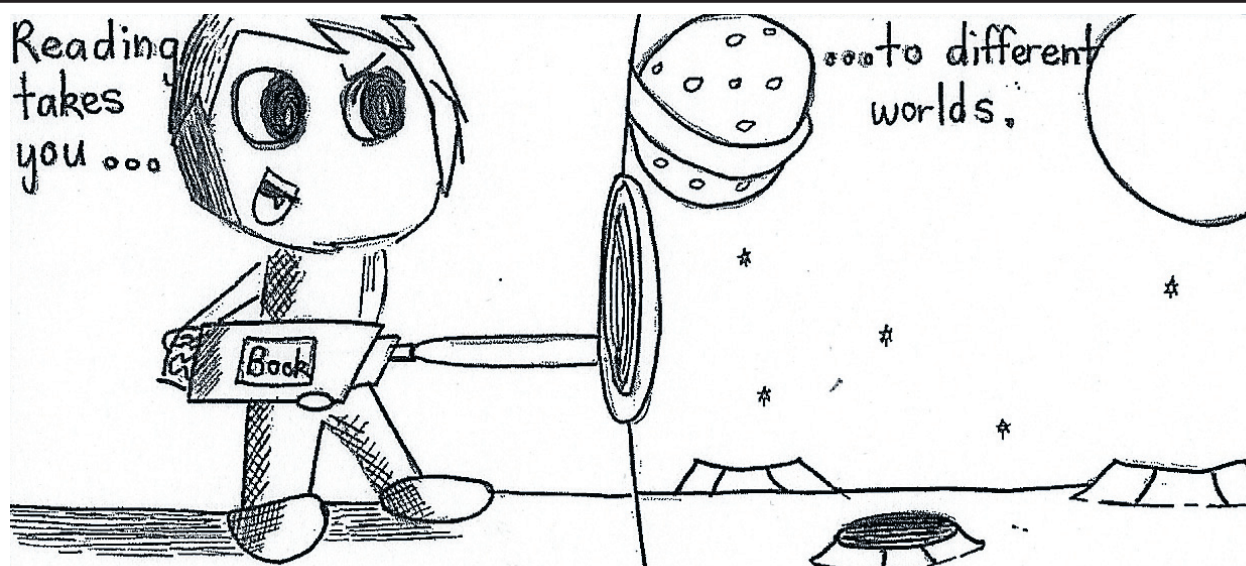
These included a dress-up character parade, a "rug and read" picnic morning tea, the Scholastic book fair and exploring the Children's Book Council of Australia's nominated books.

Mrs Crossing said why she is so committed to this annual literacy-focused event: "You get inspired to read and write; it also introduces new topics and characters and it is a great way to relax and let your imagination take over."



**MORNING TEA:** Wirreanda families enjoying the "rug and read" activity.  
Picture: Ava Ravell

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